

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

Claims 1 –7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) Dip soldering apparatus applying solder to component leads extending downwardly from a printed circuit board, said apparatus comprising:

a reservoir for molten solder;

an elongate plate provided in the reservoir and positioned at a surface of the molten solder~~[[,]]~~ ; and

a holder supporting said printed circuit board, said holder and said reservoir defining one of a first and a second condition, wherein, said first condition said printed circuit board is positioned away from said reservoir and in said second condition said printed circuit board is positioned above said reservoir with said component leads extending at least partially into said molten solder;

~~_____ - surface component leads selectively movable between a raised and lowered condition for being dipped into said solder, the~~ wherein said plate ~~having~~ has an upwardly facing edge and side surfaces extending downwards from the plate edge, _____ the plate being positioned and dimensioned in said second condition to fit between adjacent component leads so that said adjacent component leads ~~to be soldered pass to~~ are disposed on each side of the plate edge respectively and the plate surface being of a material which is wetted by the molten solder

~~;~~ and

~~_____ means for lowering the solder surface in order to effect withdrawal of the component leads from the solder.~~

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) Dip soldering apparatus applying solder to the leads of an electronic component, said apparatus comprising:

a nozzle having an outlet through which solder is flowed in use; and
a component holder supporting said component, said holder and said nozzle being movable between a raised condition in which said component is remote from said nozzle and a lowered condition in which ~~_____ and leads to be soldered selectively removable between a raised and lowered condition for being~~ are dipped into the solder surface at the nozzle outlet~~[[,]]~~;

~~_____ wherein the nozzle includes a member provided at the nozzle outlet and having a surface which is wetted by the solder, the surface being positioned so as to be straddled by two adjacent leads of a component to be soldered;~~

~~and~~

~~_____ means for lowering the solder surface in order to effect withdrawal of the component leads from the solder;~~

wherein the member is positioned so as to project through the solder surface as the leads are withdrawn from the solder;

wherein means is provided to ~~lower the solder surface~~ separate said holder and said nozzle to effect withdrawal of the leads from the solder.

Claims 10 –18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the member has a honeycomb structure.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) Dip soldering apparatus for applying solder to the leads of an electronic component comprising:

a component holder supporting said component;

a nozzle having an outlet through which solder is flowed in use to form a solder surface, and being movable between a first position below and separated from said component and a second position in which said ~~leads to be soldered~~ being are dipped into the solder surface at the nozzle outlet, wherein the nozzle includes a member provided at the nozzle outlet and having a surface which is wetted by the solder, the surface being positioned so as to be straddled by two adjacent leads ~~of a component to be soldered~~; and

means for selectively ~~lowering~~ the solder surface in order to effect withdrawal of the leads from the solder;

wherein said member is movable relative to said solder surface.

Claims 21 –24. (Cancelled)

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) Dip soldering apparatus comprising a holder supporting a component with leads, a nozzle having an outlet through which solder is

flowed in use, leads of the component to be soldered being dipped into the solder surface at the nozzle outlet, wherein the nozzle includes a member provided at the nozzle outlet and having a surface which is wetted by the solder, the surface being positioned so as to be straddled by two adjacent leads ~~of a component to be soldered;~~

said apparatus further including means for lowering the solder surface in order to effect withdrawal of the leads from the solder

~~;~~ and

~~— means for lowering the solder surface for effecting withdrawal of the component leads from the solder.~~

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said member is disposed below the level of the solder surface as the solder flows through the nozzle outlet.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said member is movable relative to the solder surface.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said member is positioned for projecting through the solder surface as the leads are withdrawn from the solder.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) Dip soldering apparatus comprising:
a holder supporting a component with leads to be soldered;

a reservoir for molten solder;

an elongate plate provided in the reservoir and positioned at a surface of the molten solder, ~~and surface component leads for being dipped into said solder,~~ the plate having an upwardly facing edge and side surfaces extending downwards from the plate edge, the plate being positioned and dimensioned so that adjacent component leads to be soldered pass to each side of the plate edge and the plate surface being of a material which is wetted by the molten solder; and

means for lowering the solder surface away from said holder for effecting withdrawal of the component leads from the solder;

wherein said plate is movable relative to the solder surface.

Claims 30-36. (Cancelled)